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AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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April Meeting

Mr. John Hopkinson Baker, Executive Director of the National Association of Audubon Societies, New York City, spoke to an audience of 500 at a special meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific in the Pacific Gas and Electric Auditorium, Thursday evening, April 2nd. His subject was "Wildlife Conservation in America." Interspersed during the lecture were three intensely interesting reels of motion pictures showing the wild water-fowl at Rainey Sanctuary in Louisiana, Cobb Island in the Carolinas, and the Todd Sanctuary in Maine.

The following constitutes the major portion of the address:

"Wild life has not only enormous spectacle and recreational values, but people are fast coming to realize that economic welfare depends to a surprising degree upon a reasonable supply of all native forms of wild life in natural balance. Has it occurred to you that while we are fussing with experiments as to the reduction of crops, technocracy and what-not, we have overlooked one of the fundamental causes of unemployment, the dole, and relief,—namely, the depletion of natural resources on which many of our population depended for a living? The annual runs of salmon, shad, and sturgeon in most of our rivers have stopped as the result of pollution and engineering construction. Our fur-bearing animals have been vastly depleted through drainage of swamps and marshes in the supposed interest of agriculture. In his efforts to utilize the last square inch of tillable or grazing land, man has sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind in the form of erosion and dust storm.

"You might say, 'Well, what is the Audubon Society doing about this, besides just talking about it?' It is our job to arrest these main forces of destruction, such as over-grazing, over hunting, erosion, pollution, wasteful lumbering, unwise reclamation and drainage, engineering projects destructive of wildlife habitats, invasion of wilderness areas, and political appointments to Federal and State Conservaton agencies. In doing so we inevitably come to grips with those willing to deplete our natural resources in their own selfish interest whether for sport or for profit. Our legislators and elected officials are subjected to constant pressure from minority interests to approve projects and appropriate funds for work which is seriously destructive to wildlife.

"Right now we have wardens on the job guarding 286,400 acres. On these, there are three hundred and three nesting colonies, included in thirty-six sanctuaries. These dot the Atlantic and Gulf coastal areas from Maine to Texas. Only about a generation ago the beautiful Snowy and American Egrets were on the verge of extinction; protection accorded these and the White Ibis by the Audubon Society have brought them back now to abundance in the southern states. There's real conservation for you! When people begin going in great numbers to the New Everglades National Park in Florida, after it is really established in 1939, the great flocks of birds of this kind will be one of the features of the park that will attract the greatest interest.

"In Florida and Texas there is a marvelous great pink-colored bird called the Roseate Spoonbill. Well, we're bringing back the Spoonbill, as well as the

Reddish Egret. They were both nearly gone. We are striving now, through actual guardianship, to save from extinction the Great White Heron, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the Glossy Ibis as North American birds. Among others, we are protecting many species of ducks, geese, petrels, pelicans, guillemots, terns, plovers, oyster-catchers, skimmers, puffins, and in Florida, cranes, burrowing owls and caracaras. We are saving these spectacular forms of wildlife for the welfare and enjoyment of this and future generations. I am sure that you'll agree with me that this is real conservation.

"In much of the control work in recent years the CCC boys have been used and we view with abhorrence the instruction of these boys in the distribution of poison. After all, we do not call upon the youngsters in the family to drown the kittens which are the result of our own past mistakes in cat-management.

"Quite a few of my hunting friends seem to feel that, because they pay a few dollars and cents for a license, they thereby acquire a sort of prior lien on the game and a prior right to determine the regulations as to its take. There is no legal justification whatever for such a viewpoint. What they buy when they get a license is a privilege to shoot certain wild life species which are the property of the citizens as a whole. We would feel that the adoption of this conception, that it is a privilege and not a right, and action consistent with that viewpoint, would greatly minimize friction between land-owners and non-shooters, on the one hand, and the license holders on the other.

"No matter what we do now to restore and conserve wildlife resources, there will be no permanency to the program unless we succeed in bringing home to our children the vital import to them of preservation of wildlife. We are coming to realize that the teaching of these qualities which make for good citizenship is of equal, if not greater, importance than the teaching of certain mental gymnastics which have been long in vogue. I hope that we are to enjoy that 'more abundant leisure' of which we have heard so much; at least, there seems to be a trend in that direction. What more profitable use of leisure can you envisage than appreciative use of the outdoors?

"Cleanliness and beauty in our surroundings certainly tend to produce cleanliness and beauty in our lives. It is an interesting fact that a judge of children's courts, who has kept a careful record for many years, has yet to find a single case of juvenile delinquency where the child had any appreciation of nature.

"So we are trying to get teachers, youth leaders, and children out of doors, doing something for a purpose, such as establishing and maintaining sanctuaries, making and maintaining gardens, building bird houses, putting them up and observing their use. Children brought into contact with the marvels of nature experience an emotional response to beauty, and an intellectual response to curiosity. We have enrolled over five million children in Junior Audubon Clubs in the schools.

"Let me repeat that the Audubon Society stands for the preservation of an adequate breeding stock of all forms of active wild life and endeavors to arouse the public to act to preserve its rightful inheritance for its own social, recreational and material welfare. Will you join with us, as we will with you, in efforts to bring about a happier and brighter future, in which nature appreciation may be widespread and the problem of enforcement and regulation consequently greatly minimized."

April Field Trip

On Sunday morning, the 5th, at 10 o'clock, eleven members and five guests met at the Fleishhacker playground for the April field trip. As the trail from there to Lake Merced, which we had always used on former occasions, was closed to the public on account of a PWA project, we went by automobiles to

Sunset Boulevard and walked through the eucalyptus grove down to the shore of the north lake. It was a perfect day and the prospect of obtaining a fair-sized list of birds seemed good. When we had canvassed the north lake pretty thoroughly we crossed Harding Boulevard to the south lake. On a grassy spot overlooking the lake we ate our lunch. Hummingbirds were numerous here around the albizzia lophanta. On the lake we could see Western Grebes and hear them call. Two Caspian Terns flew past, a species not previously recorded at Lake Merced on an Audubon trip.

After luncheon we decided to go by automobiles to the San Mateo Bridge and Leslie Salt Works to observe shore birds. Mr. John H. Baker of the National Association of Audubon Societies was one of our guests and we wanted especially to show him what the Bay region had to offer in shore birds. The tide would be right at three o'clock, which gave us ample time to make the trip.

As soon as we had crossed the bridge proper and were on the eastern approach, on either side of which are extensive mud flats, we could see that the spring migration was well under way. Various species were present in large numbers. A group of some fifty Knots might have been overlooked but for Mr. Baker, who recognized them just as we were getting back into the machines to go.

On the Leslie property the two outstanding observations were six Snowy Herons, a new species for the Association's life-list, and a flock of two hundred and twenty-five Avocets. The latter were mostly in breeding plumage, and we succeeded in approaching very close to them.

Returning by Bay Farm Island we added Sanderlings to our list. In Mrs. Kelly's garden in Alameda we were greeted by a California Jay, a Hermit Thrush and a San Francisco Brown Towhee. And then just as we were leaving, the familiar notes of a Golden-crowned Sparrow seemed to bid us farewell. Ninety-three species were observed for the day, as follows:

Lake Merced: Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes; Farallon Cormorant; Black-crowned Night Heron; Bittern; Mallard; Baldpate; Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal; White-winged Scoter; Red-breasted Merganser; Quail; Sora Rail; American Coot; Glaucous-winged, Western and California Gulls; Caspian Tern; Anna and Allen Hummingbirds; Red-shafted Flicker; Western Flycatcher; Barlow Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Bush-tit; Vigors and Tule Wrens; Western Robin; Cedar Waxwing; Lutescent, Myrtle, Audubon and Townsend Warblers; Yellow-throat; English Sparrow; Purple and House Finches; Pine Siskin; Green-backed Goldfinch; San Francisco Towhee; Junco; Nuttall and Song Sparrows.

San Mateo Bridge: Eared and Western Grebes; Great Blue Heron; American Pintail; Shoveller; Canvas-back and Scaup Ducks; American Golden-eye; Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; Red-breasted Merganser; Sparrow Hawk; Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers; Killdeer; Black-bellied Plover; one each Black and Ruddy Turnstones; Long-billed and Hudsonian Curlew; Western Willet; American Knot; Red-backed Sandpiper; Long-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; California, Western and Bonaparte Gulls; Forster and Caspian Terns; Cliff Swallow; Meadowlark; San Francisco Red-wing and Brewer Blackbirds.

Leslie Salt Works: American Egret; Snowy Heron; American Pintail; Shoveller, Canvas-back, Scaup and Ruddy Ducks; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks; Killdeer; Hudsonian Curlew; Western Willet; Greater Yellow-leg; Least, Red-backed and Western Sandpipers; Long-billed Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; Avocet; Bonaparte Gull; Forster and Caspian Terns; Violet-green and Barn Swallows; Pipit; Shrike; Meadow lark; Savannah Sparrow.

Alameda: Eared and Western Grebes; Scaup and Ruddy Ducks; Black-bellied Plover; Western Sandpiper; Sanderling; Ring-billed Gull; California Jay; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Cedar Waxwing; English Sparrow; San Francisco Towhee; San Francisco Brown Towhee; Nuttall and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Albert B. Stephens, Historian.

Audubon Notes

May Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 14th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. E. Lowell Sumner, Jr., Regional Wildlife Technician, National Park Service, whose subject will be "Predatory Animals in Our National Parks."

May Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 17th, to Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County. San Francisco members will take 8 a. m. Key Route Ferry and Sacramento Northern Railway train. East Bay members may take train at Fortieth Street and Shafter Avenue at 8:30 a. m. Purchase round-trip ticket to Saint Mary's; fare from San Francisco 75c; from Oakland 50c. Bring luncheon.

Observations: The following observations have been received by mail:

Chas. A. Bryant: American Egret on the shore of Bodega Bay, March 17th.

Mrs. Ensign: Lutescent Warbler, San Rafael, February 26th; Black-headed Grosbeak, Corte Madera, April 10th.

Mrs. Kelly: Pileolated Warbler, Golden Gate Park, March 18th; Barn Swallow, Semipalmated Plover and one Hudsonian Curlew, Alameda; Cliff Swallow, Dumbarton Bridge; Baird Sandpiper, Leslie Salt Works; 100+ Hudsonian and 100+ Long-billed Curlew, Arden Salt Works near Sunnyvale, all on March 20th; Leona Heights, White-throated Swift, 21st.

Arthur Myer: Road-runner, Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley, March 22nd.

Robert Taylor: Anna Hummingbird nesting in Golden Gate Park, January 26th; Bush-tit building nest January 25th and an Allen Hummingbird seen January 26th and gathering nesting material February 8th, campus, University of California; Violet-green Swallow, East Oakland, March 1st; Lutescent Warbler, 2nd; Pileolated Warbler, 12th; Western Flycatcher, 14th; Warbling Vireo, 17th; Slate-colored Junco, 15th; and House Wren, 10th, all on the campus, University of California.

Commander Parmenter: 194+ American Egrets, 4 Cinnamon Teal, Alvarado marsh; 131 Greater Yellow-legs, Arden Salt ponds, March 20th; 3 White-throated Swifts, San Andreas Lake, March 28th.

New Members: The following have been elected to membership: Mrs. C. G. Clear, Miss Carol Rehfisch and Messrs. James Moffitt and Walter Newman, all of San Francisco.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly	1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
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Treasurer	Mrs. A. B. Stephens	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

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Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.